

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058162

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEXT STEPS

REF: A. USUN 777, B. CAPE TOWN 394, C. STATE 47788,
D. CAPE TOWN 412, E. CAPE TOWN 423
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1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH CONTACT GROUP SCENARIO OUTLINED
IN REF A, PROVIDED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH SALIM AND KONIE
DO NOT TURN UP OBJECTIONS TO PRESENTING PROPOSAL TO PARTIES
PRIOR TO COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA MEETING IN LUSAKA. WE AGREE
THAT RISKS OF DELAYING PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS UNTIL
AFTER LUSAKA MEETING ARE GREATER THAN RISK OF COUNCIL

REJECTION OF PROPOSALS, BUT FL SUPPORT FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE FRONT LINE NOW RECOGNIZES THAT EARLY ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON RHODESIA WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW, WE BELIEVE THEIR RECEPTIVITY TOWARDS THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA SHOULD BE HIGH.

2. CONTACT GROUP SCENARIO DOES NOT INDICATE WHAT KIND OF ACTION SC WOULD BE ASKED TO TAKE ON PROPOSAL. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT THIS DECISION WOULD BE MADE AT THE TIME DEPENDING ON THE REACTION OF THE PARTIES AS SUGGESTED IN

PARA 4 OF REFTEL C.

3. WE HAVE NOTED FROM REFTELS D AND E THAT SAG CONTINUES TO RELY HEAVILY ON ARGUMENT THAT INTERNAL NAMIBIAN GROUPS ASIDE FROM SWAPO ARE NEGATIVE ON WESTERN PROPOSALS. CONTACT GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER:

A. WHETHER REBUTTAL OF THIS POINT TO FOURIE AND/OR BOTHA BASED ON OUR OWN SOUNDINGS MIGHT NOT BE USEFUL.

B. WHETHER SCENARIO FOR NEXT STEPS SHOULD NOT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF "CLARIFIED" PROPOSAL TO INTERNAL NAMIBIAN GROUPS AFTER IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA BUT BEFORE IT IS TABLED IN SC.

4. WE ARE ALSO STRUCK BY FLEUR DE VILLIER'S COMMENTS (REF B) TO THE EFFECT THAT A WESTERN COMMITMENT TO STAND BY ITS PROPOSALS NO MATTER WHAT SWAPO DOES WOULD BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN SAG DECISION TO ACCEPT THE FIVE'S PLAN. WE RECALL SIMILAR HINTS TO THIS EFFECT IN THE PAST, SOME OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. THIS MAY BE SIMPLY PART OF DEVELOPING RATIONALE FOR NOT ACCEPTING WEST'S PROPOSALS, BUT IT COULD ALSO REFLECT A GENUINE SAG CONCERN.

A. WOULD APPRECIATE CAPE TOWN'S VIEWS ON THIS POINT. IF YOU THINK IT ADVISABLE, YOU COULD DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR WESTERN FIVE COLLEAGUES. YOU MIGHT WISH TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF REVERSING THE LINKAGE TO PROVIDE FOR A WESTERN COMMITMENT TO STICK BY ITS PROPOSALS IF SAG ACCEPTS THEM PROVIDED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO IMPLEMENT THE WESTERN PLAN IF SWAPO DOES SO AS WELL. AT THE SAME TIME, WE COULD COMMIT OURSELVES TO SWAPO AND THE FL THAT WE WILL STICK BY THE PROPOSALS IF THEY SIGN ON AND JUDGE SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTIONS BY THAT STANDARD.

B. USUN SHOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE IN CONTACT GROUP, AND
DISCUSS IT ALONG THE SAME LINES AS ABOVE. VANCE

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